

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 SNM-02 AID-20 DODE-00 AGR-20

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IGA-02 /162 R

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APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER

OSD/ISA -JKELLY (SUBST)

IO/HDC - LCAVANAUGH (SUBST)

S/NM -MLAWRENCE (SUBST)

EA/RA - HISOM (SUBST)

AID -NSWEET (DRAFT)

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R 211529Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012790

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MILI, TH

SUBJ: SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOY BEANS/INCOME
SUBSTITUTION

REF: BANGKOK 538

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES RATIONALE FOR SEEKING FAVORABLE
RESPONSE TO KRIANGSAK'S REQUEST REFTEL AND WE ARE SEEKING
TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSPORTING SOY BEAN SEED
ON NON-REIMBURSEABLE BASIS VIA MAC AIRCRAFT. AT PRESENT,
PROSPECTS ARE NOT ENCOURAGING BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIVE MAC
REGULATIONS AND EFFECTS OF FUEL SHORTAGE. WE ARE ALSO
EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING TRANSPORTATION
COSTS, INCLUDING AID AND DEA, BUT DIFFICULTIES EXIST HERE
TOO.

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2. TO ASSIST US IN FINAL DECISION, WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT INCLUDING COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING POINTS RAISED BY INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES:

(A) TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THIS PROJECT DISPLACE OPIUM CULTIVATION IN THE ESTIMATED 1000 ACRES THAT 26 TONS OF SEED WOULD COVER?

(B) DOES PLAN TO USE SOY BEAN SEED INCLUDE PROVISION FOR MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS? WE ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF KIDNEY BEAN SCENARIO AND WOULD H PE THAT ANY NEW CROP SUBSTITUTE

PROGRAM, HOWEVER WELL-INTENTIONED, WOULD AVOID PITFALLS OF THAT EARLIER EXPERIENCE.

(C) HAS SOY BEAN PROGRAM BEEN COORDINATED WITH ACTIVITIES OF OTHER RTG AGENCIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY AND KING'S PROJECT, AND UNFDAC PROJECTS?

(D) WILL THIS PROGRAM BE RELATED IN ANY WAY TO, OR HAVE ANY IMPACT ON, CURRENT INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS UNDER USOM STUDY?

3. IF TRANSPORT VIA MAC AIRCRAFT ON A SPACE AVAILABLE, NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS SHOULD NOT PROVE POSSIBLE, WE UNDERSTAND THA SEED CAN BE TRANSPORTED IF MAC IS REIMBURSED FOR COSTS INCURRED. THE COST WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$33,000, WHICH IS COMPARABLE TO COMMERCIAL RATES SINCE MAC IS AN "INDUSTRIALLY FUNDED" (I.E., SELF-SUPPORTING) ENTITY AND IS REQUIRED TO CHARGE AT OR ABOVE COMMERCIAL LEVELS. WOULD RTG BE WILLING TO PAY?

4. DEPARTMENT CALLED TRANSWORLD IN FRESNO TO CONFIRM AVAILABILITY OF SEED. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED ORDER, SAID SEED READY FOR SHIPMENT AT PURCHASE COST OF UNDER \$10,000 AND NOTED FROM EARLY CABLE TRAFFIC WITH KRIANGSAK THAT PLANTING SEASON WAS IN APRIL-JUNE PERIOD. THEREFORE, THEY QUESTIONED NEED TO AIRFREIGHT SEED WHEN SHIPMENT BY SEA WOULD GET THEM THERE IN TIME. ALSO MENTIONED THAT PERSONAL CONTACTS AT TRAVIS AF BASE DISCOURAGED LIKELIHOOD

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OF AIR SHIPMENT ON BASIS OF CURRENT REGULATIONS AND FUEL CRISIS. FINALLY, TRANSWORLD SAID THEY AWAITING REPLIES TO LAST THREE CABLES SENT KRIANGSAK AND HAD BEGUN TO THINK DEAL FALLEN THROUGH.

5. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS. KISSINGER

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